

Remarks

Claim 2 was pending in this application.

Claim 2 was objected to for various informalities. Claim 2 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Uzo, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0061170 A1 (hereinafter "Uzo"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant has amended claim 2 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions to correct the noted informalities and has added new claims 3-22. The amendments and new claims are fully supported and justified by the specification.

Applicant's invention, as defined by independent claims 2, 3, and 13, is directed towards methods and a system for performing a purchase transaction. A cash value is entered at a purchasing station (e.g., a point-of-sale terminal or cash register), and is used to purchase a percentage of inventory as part of a proxy sale. Average historical costs (e.g., cost of goods, taxes, overhead, etc.) related to the purchased inventory are analyzed. These historical costs may be used, for example, for immediate inclusion on a merchant's balance sheet. Any portion of the percentage of purchased inventory may later be exchanged for other inventory.

Uzo refers to using a "money-proxy" or token for making secure electronic payments. A merchant is granted a token by a customer that may then be credited and debited on the merchant end in a network environment in accordance with transactions performed by the customer with the merchant. Uzo makes no mention of at least making a proxy sale of inventory, of calculating and reporting average historical costs associated with the proxy sale of inventory, or of exchanging the purchased percentage of inventory for merchandise. Uzo, therefore, fails to anticipate applicant's independent claims 2, 3, and 13.

In view of the foregoing applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Alex Shvarts', written over a horizontal line.

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